

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 8 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 4, line 20 - page 5, line 7. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Utama and Mosser at the personal interview held July 24, 2008, are appreciated. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully request entry and consideration of the pending claims as amended above.

The February 5, 2008 Office Action rejects claims 1, 8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,752,716 to Nishimura et al. (hereinafter "Nishimura"); rejects claims 2-4, 9-11 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nishimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,936 to Braun et al. (hereinafter "Braun 1"); and rejects claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nishimura in view of Braun 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,252,583 to Braun et al. (hereinafter "Braun 2"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 8, and as discussed during the July 24, 2008 personal interview, Nishimura fails to disclose a vibration condition setting section which performs processing for accepting a vibration condition setting which is set by an operator and specifies a vibration occurrence simulation state, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 8.

The Office Action, referring to col. 9 of Nishimura, asserts that Nishimura discloses the claimed vibration condition setting section and vibration condition setting (see Office Action, page 2, item 2). These assertions are respectfully traversed.

In particular, Nishimura merely discloses that a CPU 101 decides whether a vibration type 1 or type 2 is appropriate and then retrieves the vibration generation command that best

reflects the current conditions of a vehicle from a table of vibration generation commands corresponding to conditions stored in advance in a ROM 102 (see Nishimura, col. 9 lines 16-27). Therefore, Nishimura fails to disclose a vibration condition setting section which performs processing for accepting a vibration condition setting which is set by an operator and specifies a vibration occurrence simulation state, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 8. Further, neither Braun 1 nor Braun 2 remedies the deficiencies of Nishimura.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Nishimura. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-14 and 17-22 are patentable over Nishimura, at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 8, from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's April 24, 2004 claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-121021 that was filed April 25, 2003 in Japan.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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